

REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in response to the Office Action dated September 2, 2005, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5 and 7-9 are pending in the present application. Claim 5 has been withdrawn from consideration. Claim 4 has been canceled.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 7-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Meguro (U.S. Patent No. 6,198,598).

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 4. Claim 4 has consequently been canceled. Therefore, claim 1 and its dependent claims should be deemed allowable. Further, the rejection of claims 1 and 7-9 is now moot.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2 and 3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meguro. As indicated above, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 4. Consequently, the rejection of dependent claims 2 and 3 is now moot.

III. New Claims

Applicant has added claims 10 and 11 to provide a more varied scope of protection.

Claims 10 and 11 should be deemed allowable by virtue of their dependency to claim 1 for the reasons set forth above.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claim 4 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 4. Consequently, claim 1 and its dependent claims should be allowed.

Applicant submits that the application is now in a condition for allowance.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No.: 10/618,703

Attorney Docket No.: Q76521

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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